

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3 and 4 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A process for making a sealing device having a sealing lip with a frustoconical air-side surface and a frustoconical oil-side surface ~~and, the sealing lip~~ having a harder helical portion on said air-side surface, and a hardness of said harder helical portion being harder than a hardness of a remainder of said sealing lip, said process comprising the steps of:

preparing a sealing device having a rigid annular casing, a molded elastomeric member bonded to said casing and a sealing lip defined by a single material and including a frustoconical air-side surface and a frustoconical oil-side surface;

radiating selected interdispersed portions of said frustoconical air-side surface with a ray of radiation to form said harder helical portion on only said frustoconical air-side surface by inducing cross-linking and avoiding decomposition of said frustoconical air-side surface; and

said frustoconical air-side surface being formed into concave shaped grooves and convex shaped ribs when the sealing device is in use with relative rotative movement between the sealing lip and a shaft, said convex shaped ribs having ~~said hardness of being~~ said harder helical portion and said concave shaped grooves, of said frustoconical air-side surface having ~~he~~ the hardness of the remainder of the sealing lip with each of said concave shaped grooves being located between adjacent ones of said convex shaped ribs, and said frustoconical air side surface being snugly fit against an outer periphery of the shaft when there is no relative rotative movement between the sealing lip and the shaft.

4. (Currently Amended) The process for making a sealing device according to Claim 3, further comprising placing a mask on said frustoconical air-side surface before radiating, said mask having a helical slit through which an electromagnetic wave of said radiation passes onto said selected interdispersed portions of said frustoconical air-side surface to make said harder helical portion on said frustoconical air-side surface.

Claims 5-11 (Cancelled)